

**Claims**

1. Call Server being configured such as to trigger a trunk gateway to send out an IP-COT request via the Internet to another trunk gateway and/or to send out an ATM-COT request via ATM to another trunk gateway.
2. Trunk gateway being configured such as to send out an IP-COT request via the Internet to another trunk gateway and/or to send out an ATM-COT request via ATM to another trunk gateway.
3. Method for testing the continuity of an IP connection, including the steps of sending an IP-COT request from a first trunk gateway to a second trunk gateway via Internet, receiving the IP-COT request in the second trunk gateway, mirroring back the received IP-COT request from the second trunk gateway to the first trunk gateway or generating an IP-COT response in the second trunk gateway and sending the response back to the first trunk gateway via Internet.
4. Method according to claim 3, further including the step of sending the IP-COT request from the first trunk gateway to the second trunk gateway after receipt of a trigger tone from a call server.
5. Method for testing the continuity of an IP connection, including the steps of sending a trigger signal from a call server to a first trunk gateway to

send out an IP-COT request tone to a second trunk gateway, sending the IP-COT request from the first trunk gateway to the second trunk gateway (TGW B) via Internet, receiving the IP-COT request in second trunk gateway, sending the IP-COT request or a generated COT response from the second trunk gateway to the call server.

6. Method according to claim 5, further including the step of sending the received IP-COT request or the received generated COT response or a generated COT response from the call server to the first trunk gateway.
7. Method for testing the continuity of an IP connection, including the steps of sending an IP-COT request tone from a first trunk gateway to a call server, sending a trigger signal from the call server to a second trunk gateway to send out an IP-COT response to the first trunk gateway, sending the IP-COT response from the second trunk gateway to the first trunk gateway via Internet.
8. Computer program for a trunk gateway having specific computer program codes to enable the trunk gateway to perform the following steps when run on the hardware of the trunk gateway: generating and sending a COT request tone via Internet or ATM to another trunk gateway or via another protocol to a call server and receiving and detecting a corresponding COT response from another trunk gateway or a call server.
9. Computer program for a call server having specific computer program codes to enable the call server to perform the following step when run on the hardware of the call server: generating and sending a trigger signal to a trunk gateway to send out an IP-COT request via the Internet to another trunk gateway and/or to send out an ATM-COT request via ATM to another trunk gateway.
10. Method for testing the continuity of a connection between a first exchange and a second exchange being interconnected via the Internet by means of two trunk gateways, including the steps of testing the continuity of the connection between the first exchange and the first trunk gateway, testing the continuity of the Internet connection between

the first trunk gateway and the second trunk gateway, and testing the continuity of the connection between the second trunk gateway and the second exchange.

11. Method according to claim 10, wherein testing the continuity of the connection between the first exchange and the first trunk gateway is performed by sending a COT request tone from the first exchange to a call server, sending a trigger signal to send out a COT signal from the call server to the first trunk gateway, sending the COT signal from the first trunk gateway to the first exchange, detecting the COT signal received from the first trunk gateway in the first exchange, wherein testing the continuity of the Internet connection between the first trunk gateway and the second trunk gateway is performed by sending a further trigger signal to send out a COT request tone from the call server to the first trunk gateway, sending a COT request tone from the first trunk gateway to the second trunk gateway, sending of a COT signal from the second trunk gateway to the call server after receipt of the COT request, detecting the COT signal received from the second trunk gateway in the call server, and wherein testing the continuity of the connection between the second trunk gateway and the second exchange is performed by sending a further trigger signal to send out a COT request tone from the call server to the second trunk gateway, sending a COT request tone from the second trunk gateway to the second exchange, sending of a COT signal from the second exchange to the call server after receipt of the COT request, detecting the COT signal received from the second exchange in the call server.
12. Method according to claim 10, wherein testing the continuity of the connection between the first exchange and the second exchange is done using a transparent COT, wherein the first exchange sends a COT request tone to a call server, the call server sends a trigger signal to the second exchange to send out a transparent COT to the second trunk gateway, the second exchange sends the transparent COT to the second trunk gateway, the second trunk gateway forwards the received

transparent COT to the first trunk gateway, the first trunk gateway forwards the received transparent COT to the first exchange.